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THE KISSINGER TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA

ANNCR:

SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER LEAVES MONDAY FOR A TEN-DAY, SIX-NATION VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN LOOKS AT SOME OF THE REASONS BEHIND THAT TRIP.

VOICE:

FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO VISIT SOUTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL AMERICA. BUT HE HAS HAD REPEATEDLY TO POSTPONE THOSE VISITS BECAUSE OF THE OVERWHELMING PRESSURES OF SUCH WORLD EVENTS AS THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR, AND THE MIDDLE EAST STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN INTERIM PEACE THERE. NOW, AT LAST, HE IS REALIZING THAT DESIRE, AND HE INDICATED THE REASONS FOR IT AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE THURSDAY.

THERE ARE NO CRISES AT THIS TIME RUFFLING RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES. BUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP BEARS CLOSE STUDY AND CARE AT THIS JUNCTURE IN THE WORLD'S AFFAIRS. THAT RELATIONSHIP HAS TO BE VIEWED ON TWO LEVELS--THE REGIONAL AND THE WORLDWIDE. AND IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, ECONOMICS LIES AT THEIR CORE.

THIS WAS THE THOUGHT BEHIND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S WORDS TO HIS NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HIS TRIP --AS HE PUT IT--IS DESIGNED TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA, BUT HOW THEY FIT INTO THE GENERAL WORLD PICTURE. DOCTOR KISSINGER EMPHASIZED THE INTER-DEPENDENT NATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THIS HEMISPHERE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. AND HE ALSO UNDER-SCORED THE INTER-DEPENDENT NATURE OF RELATIONS AMONG THE NATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE. THE UNITED STATES, HE INDICATED, IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT IN DEALING WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, IT FACES ECONOMIES OF DIFFERING SIZES AND CAPACITIES. THE VISITS

HE WILL MAKE TO VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, PERU, BRAZIL AND COSTA RICA WILL TAKE THIS VERY MUCH INTO ACCOUNT.

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STOP-OVER IN GUATEMALA AT THE END OF HIS TRIP WILL DEAL WITH HOW THE UNITED STATES CAN HELP FURTHER THAT EARTHQUAKE-DEVASTATED COUNTRY TO RECOVER FROM WHAT HE CALLED AN APPALLING TRAGEDY. THE UNITED STATES ALREADY, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE HEMISPHERE AND MANY OTHER NATIONS IS HELPING TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERINGS OF THE THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS AND INJURED GUATEMALANS.

AND SO THE KISSINGER MISSION TAKES ON TWO ASPECTS--ONE ECONOMIC AND THE OTHER HUMANITARIAN. BUT IT ALSO WILL INCLUDE A THIRD--THE POLITICAL ASPECT. FOR ONE OF THE TOPICS SURE TO COME UP DURING HIS TALKS WITH LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS WILL BE THE SOVIET-CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA. WHILE DOCTOR KISSINGER TOLD HIS NEWS CONFERENCE THAT CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA WILL NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF AN AMERICAN CRUSADE AGAINST IT IN LATIN AMERICA, IT IS A SUBJECT THAT IS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE CAPITALS. LATIN AMERICANS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING OPENLY THEIR FEARS THAT CUBA'S ABILITY TO MOVE THOUSANDS OF ITS SOLDIERS TO A FAR-OFF PLACE LIKE ANGOLA AT MOSCOW'S BEHEST SUGGESTS THE FEASIBILITY OF A REPETITION WITH REGARD TO CUBA'S LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS.

ANOTHER SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PANAMA CITY. IN SAN JOSE, DOCTOR KISSINGER AND PANAMANIAN LEADERS WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN DELEGATIONS WHAT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS IS. AND THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WILL ALSO INFORM THE OTHER HEMISPHERE LEADERS HE WILL MEET IN SOUTH AMERICA.

AND SO THE KISSINGER TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA BIDS FAIR TO FURTHER CEMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ITS NEIGHBORS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. FOR WHILE THOSE RELATIONS ARE GOOD, THEY REQUIRE FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES THAT, ALLOWED TO DRIFT WITHOUT AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, COULD HARM THEM.

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